

Remarks

In response to the Advisory Action of December 24, 2008, Applicants submit the following remarks. Applicants believe that the entry of this Response is proper as it makes no amendments to the claims.

In Applicants' Response of December 5, 2008, Applicants explained that the Hale reference (U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0114730) is not prior art. As one of several reasons why the Hale reference is not prior art, Applicants noted that the present application claims priority to a provisional application dated Sept. 5, 2002. The Advisory Action states that this provisional application has not been identified and that no priority claim to it has been made, and on that basis, maintains the current rejections.

Applicants note the relevant provisional application is Serial No. 60/408,979, and that a proper benefit claim was made in the first paragraph of the specification of the present application.

Applicants further note that the benefit claim to this provisional application is simply an *additional* reason why the Hale reference (U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0114730) is not prior art. Applicants note that, even without claiming the benefit of the filing date of the above-referenced provisional application, the Hale reference is still not prior art for the reasons set forth in Applicants' Response of December 5, 2008.

If the Examiner has any further concerns in this regard, Applicant respectfully requests a telephonic interview.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14-19 and 21-28, all of the claims remaining in the application, are in order for allowance, and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/Wesley W. Whitmyer, Jr./

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